

COMPLETE STREETS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

December 8, 2014

In Attendance: Beth Emery, John Hall, Cindi Perugini, Howard Reid, Laura Baum

Minutes of previous meeting accepted: Cindi and Howard

Action Plan:

Kate provided the community events calendar information which Howard included in the Action Plan.

Laura reported on the visit to Woodrow Wilson School stating it is not in written format but informed the committee Principal Joe Cassella has been replaced by Robert Conroy. It would be worthwhile to meet with the new principal at some point.

Farm Hill sidewalk has been extended to Newtown Street. Marco Gaylord was instrumental with the completion of this project by contacting the Middletown Public Works Department.

It was agreed to have a workshop for the Common Council when we have a Complete Streets ordinance in place. John has spoken with Mayor Drew who requested the city's legal department to draft an ordinance. To date that has not been accomplished.

It was suggested that members of the committee keep an eye out for projects that would have a minimal cost to the city.

Preparation of an Annual Report:

It would be an informative report of CS accomplishments throughout the year.

Thank those who have been instrumental in CS progress: Tom Nigasanti, Bill Russo, Mayor Drew etc.

Short term infrastructure repairs

Discuss at next meeting

Multi-use Trail update:

This project is in the very early stages. Contracts must be signed by the city and state which could take 3 or more months. There is a lot to take into consideration therefore, it's possible the earliest construction could begin is in the spring of 2016.

List of accomplishments:

Completion of Tuttle loop for the Mattabassett Trail

North side of sidewalk from Arrigoni Bridge to Spring Street

Railroad tracks repair on River Road

Farm Hill Road sidewalk completion

Kids Safety Day 2014

Adoption of Master Plan into Planning and Zoning

3 Traffic Counts:

1. September 2013: Snow and McDonough Schools, Stop and Shop area
2. May 2014: Arrigoni Bridge north and south side pedestrian and bike count
3. September 2014: Mattabassett Trail and downtown Middletown on Main Street/Court

Table Top Displays: Discussion

John will inquire if the city has a display board available that may not be utilized.

Utilize a 3 panel board to include:

- Pictures, captions, logo
- Outline major routes under consideration through CS for improvements
- List accomplishments of CS
- Elements needed for bike friendly community
- Make it timeless; possible funding from the Rockfall Foundation (due late fall) or Middlesex Community (due February) but need to know the cost
- Try to avoid continuous updates

Spring Bike Ride/Kids Safety Day: June 13, 2015

Routes under consideration:

some ways to get to the North End and over the Arrigoni Bridge

Main Street to DeKoven to River Road

Main Street to River Road and crossing Washington Street to Pearl Street through the North End.

Bike Friendly Community:

Beth reported this is a labor intensive project and we will need assistance from city government. It was suggested members review the application online at the League of American Bicyclists (LAB) website.

The data gathered for this project will assist Complete Streets and city personnel with identifying areas that need action.

New Britain recently obtained Bike Friendly status with the LAB. Laura will attempt to contact Mike Moriarty who was instrumental with this cause. Maybe some CS members could take a field trip to check it out.

CT Trails Days June 6 and 7, 2015:

Insufficient time to organize an event the due date of February 2015 for the booklet printing. However a route can be included but it would not be supervised. It was suggested a route could be put together for the new Mattabasset/Tuttle Road Trail and those who retain the trail book might be interested in riding it another day. Parking might be an issue, it was suggested some members check out the trail when they had an opportunity for a good parking location.

Fall Bike Ride:

Laura spoke of the Bike Walk CT efforts to get communities to participate in a fund raising ride to provide exposure for Bike Walk CT and the communities involved. She mentioned Chris Skelly is spearheading this effort and will reach out to let know CS is interested.

Questions:

What kind of ride would CS sponsor; family, short and long routes, easy and hard?

Best way to bring people from out of town to the Middletown area

Cost: would offer a family rate

Best to tie in with other city sanctioned events

Tentative date September 2015

It is a good idea to have the city government become involved which would foster the opportunity for the city to promote Middletown, thus benefiting the business community. The new Economic Development Commissioner appears to be heading the department in a positive direction.

Calendar:

January 2015: begin to plan for bike month events for May 2015

Bike to school: May 6, 2015

Kids Safety Day scheduled for June 13

Saybrook Road Project:

Nothing new to report

Next traffic count:

Conduct counts at areas where improvements are scheduled to take place i.e. West Street bridge; West Street and Washington Street intersection and the schools.

River COG Meeting:

Howard was unable to attend the last meeting. It is unknown which direction this project will head. Howard will review the feasibility study conducted by MA students.

It is imperative the committee stays up to date with this project.

Agenda for next meeting:

Grant application for table top displays

Annual report

Field trip to New Britain

Meeting schedule for 2015: meetings will be held the second Monday of the month at 7:00 pm:

1/12

2/9

3/9

4/13

5/11

6/8

7/13

8/10

9/14

10/19

11/9

12/14

2016

1/11